

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California  
COUNTY: Santa Clara  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 6 1972 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. NAME**  
COMMON: (John Adam) Squire House  
AND/OR HISTORIC: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. LOCATION**  
STREET AND NUMBER: 900 University Avenue  
CITY OR TOWN: Palo Alto  
STATE: California CODE: 94301 COUNTY: Santa Clara CODE: 085

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Comments: _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
OWNER'S NAME: Rolf A. Grebmeier  
STREET AND NUMBER: 900 University Avenue  
CITY OR TOWN: Palo Alto STATE: California CODE: 94301 COUNTY: Santa Clara CODE: 06

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Santa Clara County Recorder's Office  
STREET AND NUMBER: 191 North First Street  
CITY OR TOWN: San Jose STATE: California CODE: 95113 COUNTY: Santa Clara CODE: 06

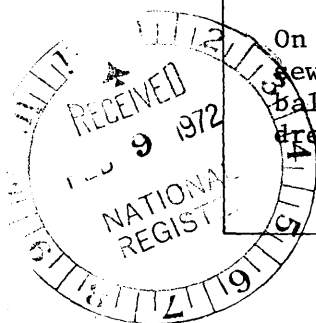
**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
TITLE OF SURVEY: California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Point of Historical Interest SCL-014  
DATE OF SURVEY: October 5, 1971 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Department of Parks and Recreation  
STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 2390  
CITY OR TOWN: Sacramento STATE: California CODE: 95811

STATE: California  
COUNTY: Santa Clara  
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 6 1972  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<p>Fine old <u>Greek Revival type</u> mansion in an attractive spacious garden setting, framed by Washingtonia Palm trees that soar 100 feet into the air. These line a semi-circular drive that leads to a beautifully proportioned graceful portico at the front of the house.</p> <p>The house sits high on its foundation. The portico is reached by six steps. From this vantage point one can look up and down University Avenue, which is lined with attractive well-built homes. The portico is an arresting feature of the house. Its four channelled Ionic columns and four pilasters support a beautiful entablature and pediment, where dentil mouldings give emphasis to the entrance below by the lively effect they produce in their abrupt alteration of light and shade. The capitals at the top of the columns are carved in the manner of those on the Erechtheum, Temple of Minerva, Acropolis, Athens, Greece. There are four volutes on each capital and tying these scroll-like features together are egg and dart carvings. Just below these are beaded, carved bandings. Large dentil mouldings are carried around the house just below the roof line.</p> <p>The house was designed by a well-known architect, T. Patterson Ross, 222 Sansome Street, San Francisco, California. His contractor, George Mosher, was a fine Palo Alto craftsman. The house remained firm during the 1906 earthquake, except its two brick chimneys toppled. Mr. Mosher not only directed workmen, but he was so dedicated that he hand polished the rosewood sliding doors and the rosewood mantle in the living room and parlor. His workmanship, together with well-chosen seasoned lumber, has endured the test of time. The house today is in good condition; there are few cracks and no evidence of a settling process.</p> <p>Behind the formal Grecian facade, the Squire House is friendly and comfortable. Through a handsome oak door, one enters a reception hall which leads to a broad oak stairway. To the left is a 40' by 18' drawing room. The ceilings are high. A centered fireplace on the outside wall is flanked by two bay windows. At the far end of the room - through rosewood pannelled doors - is a small library.</p> <p>Across the central hall from the living room is the "parlor". It too is entered through sliding rosewood doors. A bay window and an outside door overlook a terrace and porte cochere. Back of the parlor is a large dining room. Golden oak panelling has been used. A kitchen at the rear of the dining room is being remodeled. Down the central hall to the rear of the house is the maid's room, a full bath, and a rear stairway leads to the second and third floors of the house.</p> <p>On the second floor there are five large bedrooms, a sleeping porch, sewing room, and a room-sized set of cedar closets. Off each bedroom are balconies and between each two rooms are recessed marble topped lavatory dressing tables.</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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(Continuation Sheet)

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COUNTY Santa Clara	
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MAR 6	1972

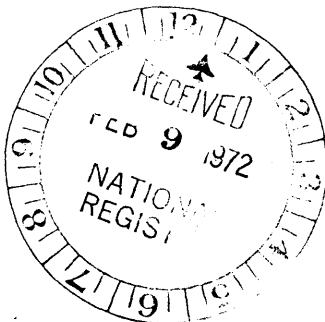
(Number all entries)

7. Description

Above the second floor, a glorified attic, without partitions, covers the entire house. The floor is in excellent condition. There are four dormer windows and a skylight. A ladder leads to a trapdoor at the top of the attic through which one may ascend to a "Widow's Walk" at the top of the roof.

The entire house is steam heated by a basement furnace where there is a workroom and a laundry.

When Mr. Squire was alive, he built a meteorological laboratory. He was not only a Greek scholar and a professor of the classics, he was expert in the science of Weather and provided, free of charge, the official daily weather reports for the Palo Alto Times newspaper and other papers on the Peninsula. Below the Stars and Stripes on his flagpole, he ran up a daily weather flag. After he passed away in 1930, Mrs. Squire continued to live in the big house and to report the weather. The laboratory is no longer in existence.



## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian    ☐ 16th Century    ☐ 18th Century    ☒ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century    ☐ 17th Century    ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1904/05

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

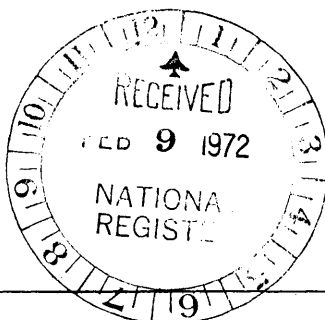
- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |  |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Adam Squire House constructed in 1904/05, was first listed in Santa Clara County's "Preliminary Inventory of Historical Landmarks" compiled in 1962, noting the fact that it is one of the earliest houses in the town of Palo Alto, California, which was incorporated in 1894. The California State Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee approved the house as a Point of Historical Interest October 5, 1971 and assigned it number SCL-014.

The Squire House is important from the architectural historian's point-of-view, since it is the finest example of Greek Revival style in the City of Palo Alto, California. Victor K. Thompson, A.I.A., Professor of Architecture and Head of the Department of Architecture at Stanford University, has stated that "The Greek Revival style is intimately linked with the Westward expansion movement in the United States. Originating on the Eastern Seaboard this style spread Westward with the pioneers. The existence of this Greek Revival style house in Palo Alto makes it a vital tie to our national history" ... "and is worthy of preservation as an historical example" ... "by means of its dignified design it speaks to the present concerning values of life which are now lost but which should not be forgotten."

This classic old home in its attractive setting, framed by a stately row of palms, has long been a sentimental feature in the Palo Alto scene, and its presence should be preserved for posterity. Palo Alto is relatively young as an incorporated City, but its site and geography has played an active and important part in early California history. While this part of Palo Alto's past cannot be re-created, what we have of Palo Alto's beginnings should be preserved.



# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A.A.U.W., Palo Alto, California Branch  
 ... Gone Tomorrow? "Neat Cottages" & "Handsome Residences".  
 A.A.U.W., Palo Alto, California, 1971.

Foothill College District. California District History Center.  
 "Squire House in Palo Alto History" by Gail Goodenough. 1970.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	North	Latitude	West Longitude
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0	37°	27'	12"
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0			
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0			
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.2295 Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Mrs. Fern B. Hunt, Vice-President

ORGANIZATION

Palo Alto Historical Association

DATE

11/30/71

STREET AND NUMBER:

P. O. Box 1321

CITY OR TOWN:

Palo Alto

STATE

California 94302

CODE

06

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

Title State Liaison Officer

Date

1/27/72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Ernest A. Connolly*

Associate Director Professional Services

MAR 6 1972

Date

ATTEST:

*William M. H. [Signature]*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date

MAR 6 1972

UTM  
 10/574910  
 4145280  
 CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



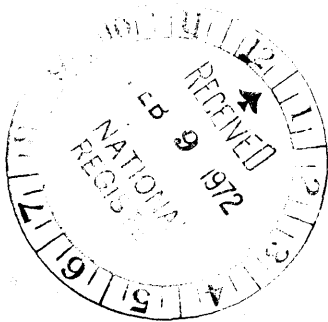
HALE

STREET

WEST LONGITUDE  $122^{\circ} 9' 11''$

AVE

UNIVERSITY



SQUIRE HOUSE

SENECA

STREET

NORTH LATITUDE  $37^{\circ} 27' 12''$

FIELD BOOK  
PAGE

DATE

SQUIRE HOUSE

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_

SCALE:  $1" = 100'$

DWG. NO.

DRAWN  
CHECKED  
REVIEWED

CITY OF PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

ENGINEER

R.E. NO.

FILE NO.

REVISION:



NPS Number March 6-72

Title: John Adam Squire  
House

Loc. Santa Clara Co., Calif.  
front/side view of  
house





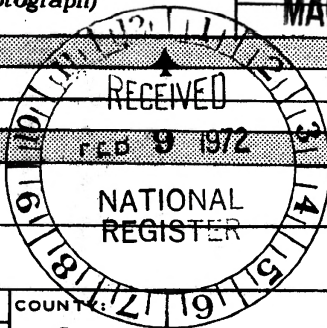
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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AND/OR HISTORIC:			
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900 University Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Palo Alto			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
California 94301	06	Santa Clara	085
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Kim Yimm, Palo Alto Times Photographer, Palo Alto, California			
DATE OF PHOTO: 11/14/71			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Palo Alto Historical Association, P. O. Box 1321, Palo Alto California 94302			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Front view, facing University Avenue, showing Ionic columns and dentil moulding.			







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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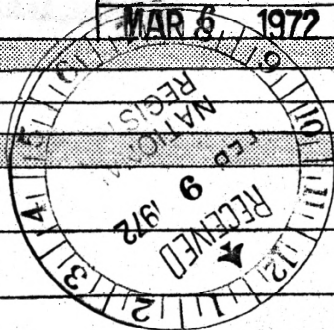
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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.	
<b>Porte cochere, facing Seneca Street showing detail of balcony railing and dentil moulding.</b>	







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Detail of Capitals egg and dart carving.

